

State Testing Policies in the District of Columbia

Presentation to the
State Board of Education
April 21, 2010

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Office of the State Superintendent of Education
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MAYOR ADRIAN M. FENTY

SEA Role

- OSSE is required to annually assess all students in grades 3-8 and once in high school in reading/language arts and mathematics and once each in grades 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12 in science.
- OSSE is required to ensure the validity and reliability of its assessment system.
 - Validity relates to the design and administration of the assessment.
 - The best way to ensure valid and reliable results is to have strong security in place before, during, and after testing.



2009 Test Integrity Review

- Revised process for 2009
- OSSE is taking a more aggressive role than almost any other state in reviewing assessment results
- Conducted three different analyses
- Data anomalies found in 12 schools across 5 LEAs
 - March 1: Reports submitted by LEAs
 - March 17: Assistant Superintendent Carothers sent each LEA a determination
 - March 24: deadline for LEAs to submit appeals; no appeals received



2009 Test Integrity Decisions

- Of the 12 schools:
 - No violation found in 10 schools
 - Violations found in 2 schools
 - Found testing practices that could be strengthened
- All 5 LEAs have been asked to increase test security training and processes
- OSSE will review and revise the process but we will conduct post-administration review of data in 2010



2010 Test Security Guidelines

Goal: Lay out clear expectations for everyone involved in the DC CAS administration

- Created in March 2009
- Revised in November 2009 in consultation with LEAs
- OSSE will enforce these guidelines for the first time with the 2010 DC CAS administration

Test security guidelines are available at:

http://www.osse.dc.gov/se0/frames.asp?doc=/se0/lib/se0/DC_CAS_State_test_security_guidelines_2010_112009.pdf



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Highlights of the Guidelines

- Lists duties before, during, and after testing for all personnel in each LEA and school
- Defines a school personnel or student violation
- Lays out the state-level consequences for a violation
- Provides sample forms
- LEA test security plan
- New provisions:
 - LEA Assessment Coordinator
 - Expanded method to report violations



2010 DC CAS Administration

- Testing window: April 19-30
- All LEAs have submitted their test schedule to OSSE
- OSSE will:
 - Conduct unannounced monitoring in approximately 50 schools during the test window
 - Conduct inspections of how test materials are being stored prior to the test window
 - Monitor in all 12 schools investigated based on having 2009 data anomalies
 - Conduct post-test audit of test security documents in randomly selected schools

